City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: January 18, 2012

TO: Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Improvement Program
Citizen Advisory Committee

FROM: Timothy Burgess, Water Resources Specialist

SUBJECT: **PROPOSITION 84 STORM WATER GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION**

COMMITTEE DIRECTION – FOR ACTION

That the Committee receive a presentation on the Propostion 84 Storm Water Grant Program and proposed Storm Water Treatment Retrofit Project, and concur with the staff recommendation to apply for grant funding through grant program.

DISCUSSION

Background

Storm water and urban runoff from impervious surfaces are major sources of surface water quality degradation. Runoff from parking lots often contains pollutants including hydrocarbons, fine sediments, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), nutrients, bacteria, and additional pollutants that are toxic to aquatic organisms and potentially harmful to human health. Storm water runoff is the most common cause of water pollution in the United States. Unlike pollution from industrial facilities, which comes from discrete sources, storm water pollution is caused by the daily activities of people everywhere.

Infiltrating storm water into the soil is an important treatment method. This strategy isaimed at maintaining or restoring natural hydrologic functions at or near the source to achieve natural resource protection. In addition to improving water quality, infiltration at the source also helps recharge groundwater and reduce peak flood flows and rates.

Proposition 84 Stormwater Grant Program

The purpose of the Proposition 84 Storm Water Grant Program (SWGP) is to provide funds to local public agencies for projects that reduce and prevent storm water

contamination of rivers, lakes, and streams. The minimum grant amount is $250,000 and the maximum grant amount is $3,000,000 for each project. The grant guidelines require a 20% funding match from the applicant agency.

Because of the multiple benefits of on-site storm water infiltration, it is considered a superior best management practice (BMP) strategy. Accordingly, the SWGP guidelines promote the use of infiltration as a storm water management strategy. Permeable paving systems are a very effective type of storm water infiltration and treatment BMP.

Permeable Pavers

The City recently completed a permeable paver project in the parking lot at MacKenzie Park and early monitoring results have confirmed its effectiveness at capturing and treating storm water runoff. The permeable pavers have captured all of the runoff from storm events and allowed it to infiltrate into the soil below the pavers. Before the project was installed, this runoff would have flowed quickly to the storm drains, creeks, and beach untreated.

Permeable pavers were chosen as the preferred design for retrofitting existing paved areas with low speed traffic for several reasons. Permeable pavers detain and filter polluted runoff through passive infiltration without compromising the existing use of the facility or surrounding structures, don't use energy for operation, require very little maintenance, and improve the aesthetics of the site.

Proposed Projects

The Creeks Division is proposing to apply for grant monies to fund two to four storm water treatment retrofit projects. Potential sites include:

- Oak Park parking lot near the horseshoe pits
- Oak Park bandstand and picnic areas
- Louis Lowry Davis Center/Teen Center parking lot
- Franklin Center parking lot

The Creeks Division has coordinated with the Facilities and Parks Divisions to identify these sites as suitable for permeable paver projects.

The designs will utilize permeable pavers to satisfy the City's Storm Water Management Program's (SWMP) requirement to capture and treat the volume of runoff from a one inch storm in a 24 hour period. Pavers will be placed strategically in the parking lots to achieve this goal and to create an aesthetically pleasing design.

The total cost for these projects is estimated to be $1,800,000. Staff is proposing to seek a $1,500,000 grant, which would be matched by a $300,000 local contribution.

Timeline

Concept grant proposals are due on January 31st, 2012. Proposals will be scored, and the highest ranking applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal in March 2012.

Budget

Measure B funds would be used to provide the 20% match. Funds would come from the Creeks Division Capital Program line item identified for Storm Water Treatment Retrofit Projects.

cc: Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager
Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director